



**AGENDA  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee  
**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**  
First 5 Riverside County  
585 Technology Ct  
Riverside, California 92507

**This notice shall confirm the Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission.**

**Note: If special accommodations are needed to participate in this meeting, please contact Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV, at (951) 955-0200 during regular business hours of the Riverside County Children and Families Commission (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).**

**Note: Public Comments will be taken on agenda items at various times during the meeting. Please submit a Request to Speak form to the Executive Assistant IV at any time before or during the meeting indicating the item you wish to address.**

**Note: Please place all cellular phones on vibrate or off mode during the meeting.**

- A. Call to Order – Malinda Margiotta, Advisory Committee Chair**
  - A.1. Pledge of Allegiance
  - A.2. Roll Call - Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV
- B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**
- C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**
  - C.1. Oath of Office for Advisory Committee Members Dr. Takashi Wada and Jiles Smith - Breanna Smith, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant; Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel
  - C.2. Director Updates - Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director
  - C.3. Advisory Committee Comments
- D. Consent – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee Page 1 of 13

D.1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes -  
October 25, 2023 Session

**MINUTES**  
**FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
**Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee**  
**October 25, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

**Advisory Committee Present:** Malinda Margiotta, Antonia Eli Mast and Agam Patel

**Advisory Committee Absent:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix

**Advisory Committee Vacancies:** Districts I, II, III, V

**Administrative Staff Present:** Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Ricardo Quezada, Deputy Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director; Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV; Carol Abella, Regional Manager; Patricia Perez, Administrative Services Manager I; Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist; Michelle Rodriguez, Public Information Specialist; Martina Guevara, Commission Coordinator; Victor Lopez, Administrative Services Analyst I; Jimmy Gutierrez, Support Service Technician

**Legal Counsel:** Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

**A. Call to Order – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair Person**

1. Pledge of Allegiance – Eli Mast
2. Roll Call – Lynn Stephens, Executive Assistant IV

**B. Public Comments (for items not listed on the agenda) – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair**  
None

**C. Commission and Advisory Committee Business – Lynn Stephens, Acting Chair**

1. Oath of Office for Advisory Committee Antonia Eli Mast and Agam Patel - Lisa Wagner, Clerk of the Board Executive Assistant  
Ms. Wagner administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Agam Patel and Ms. Antonia Eli Mast
2. First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Annual Chair and Vice Chair Process/Elections – Kristine Bell-Valdez and Tammi Graham, Executive Director  
Chair – Malinda Margiotta – *Antonia Eli Mast moved to approve. Advisory Member Patel second the motion.*  
Vice Chair – Kari Middleton-Hendrix – *Malinda Margiotta moved to approve. Advisory Member Patel second the motion.*

**Absent:** *Advisory Member Middleton-Hendrix* **Motion carried unanimously** to appoint Malinda Margiotta as Chair and Kari Middleton-Hendrix as Vice Chair.

3. Director Updates – Tammi Graham, Executive Director; Yvonne Suarez, Assistant Director; Ricardo Quezada, Deputy Director; Charna Widby, Deputy Director

Ms. Margiotta introduced Ms. Graham who introduced Ms. Charna Widby and Mr. Ricardo Quezada. Ms. Widby and Mr. Quezada provided a summary of their background.

Early Care and Education Coalition focusing on early learning partnerships and IMPACT.

### Mecca Site

Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE) Early Care and Education Unit (ECE) assists the community in accessing quality childcare services. ECE is now open in Mecca, co-located with the Family Resource Center. Ten (10) full-time staff work with families and providers to provide resources, support families with access and enrollment in alternative payment subsidized childcare, provide early educators and childcare providers with training and technical assistance, and provide resources and support to migrant families.

### Baby2Baby Car Seat Deliveries

Baby2Baby (national non-profit) received a \$1M grant to buy car seats for low-income families in California and is partnering with First 5 Riverside County to distribute 360 convertible car seats for children 5-65 lbs.

Distribution events are happening in November at the First 5 Riverside County Family Resource Centers. Families can register with FRC staff directly or by using RUHS Public Health virtual training program. Public Health staff will attend distribution events and will also provide booster seats to families with older children who need them. Volunteers from Safe Kids will be on site to assist families who need installation support.

Schedule:

11/9 – DHS: 90 car seats. Event 10:30 am-2 pm

11/17 – Mecca: 130 car seats Event 10:30 am-2 pm

11/20 – Mead Valley: 90 car seats. Event 8 am-12 pm

11/29 – Jurupa Valley: 50 car seats. Event 10:30 am-2 pm

### Jurupa Valley FRC Updates

Jurupa Valley FRC located in the Jurupa Valley Community Health Clinic is part of a pilot to improve service delivery to residents.

This month, First 5 Jurupa Valley FRC kicked off the 1<sup>st</sup> Raising A Reader event with 10 families scheduled to attend. This program provides strategies on early reading, an activity to extend the reading experience and includes community partners to offer additional programs. Since July 1, 2023, the Jurupa Valley FRC has directly served 314 Community Health Center and Community customers.

First 5 JVFRC and Office of Aging (OOA) connected with Jurupa families hosting an “Active Aging Event.” supporting 50 people through CareLink (OOA) and a nutrition Class. First 5 and Riverside University Health System – Public Health gave out promotional merchandise to introduce services with an opportunity to talk to our Social Services Practitioner III, Ms. Rosalba Mejia-Torres.

### CA First 5 Revenue Challenge

Ms. Suarez shared highlights of the declining revenue.

The decline in tobacco tax revenue is compounded by the recent passage of Proposition 31, the statewide flavored tobacco ban. First 5 revenue is projected to decrease by a staggering \$461 million over the next seven years and \$138 million in the next 18 months alone. Avo Makdessian, Executive Director of First 5 Association of California said, "In order to continue

to meet the needs of California's babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, we look forward to working with the administration and the legislature to ensure the cost of the flavored tobacco ban is not unintentionally paid for by cutting local First 5 programs such as child care, health screenings, parenting support and other vital services."

Since we last met, the Commission received the [LA Times article](#) highlighting the crucial role First 5s play in supporting children and families in California while recognizing our declining revenue challenge.

FY 23/24 Revenues are budgeted with approximately 48% of revenue anticipated from Tobacco Tax.

4. Advisory Committee Comments

Chair Margiotta noted she is excited to see First 5 participate in Raising the Reader. Ms. Graham noted car seat distribution will take place at FRCs in partnership with Public Health.

**D. Consent – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

1. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2022 Session
2. Approve First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee Draft Meeting Minutes – October 26, 2022 Session

*Chair Margiotta moved to approve the consent items as presented. Advisory Member Mast second the motion. Absent: Kari Middleton-Hendrix. Motion carried unanimously.*

**E. Presentations/Information – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

1. **Information Only** – First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee 2024 Meeting Schedule – **Receive and File**
2. Brown Act Training Kristine Bell-Valdez, Supervising Deputy County Counsel  
There are two sets of rules the Robert's Rules of Order and the Ralph Brown Act. Robert's Rules are applicable through our bylaws whereas the Brown Act is the statutory obligation for public meetings so when we have a meeting under the Brown Act we use Robert's Rules to ensure that we're using proper parliamentary procedures and guidelines and that we have a structure for how our meetings operate.

Summary of Key Points

- A majority may not consult outside of a noticed meeting.
- Meetings include any communication among a majority to hear, discuss, or deliberate on public business (e-mail, telephone calls, serial meetings, etc.).
- Legislative Body includes committees, commissions and advisory boards (except ad hoc committees of less than a quorum).
- Attendance of quorum at other events is not a violation as long as no business of the Committee is discussed (conferences & seminars, community meetings, another body of agency, social or ceremonial events).
- Assume all information is public or will become public.
- Appearances matter.

Chair Margiotta said they are fortunate to have County Counsel present at meetings and keeping them on track. Chair Margiotta thanked County Counsel Kristine Bell-Valdez presentation.

Chair Margiotta presented the next item on the agenda, Champions for Children and mentioned that this is an instrumental role in which Advisory Committee members do most of the work and then get the final approval through the Commissioners, Chair Margiotta asked Mr. Pravica to share all the good news.

3. Champion for Children (CFC) Nomination Overview – Sean Pravica, Senior Public Information Specialist

Mr. Pravica provided an overview. Each year the designated Champion for Children receives \$1,000 to sponsor a community event. Carmela Garnica, Early Learning and Care Director in Blythe CFC 2020; Desiray Taylor, ECE Director in Perris CFC 2021, created Healthy Garden to ensure all children had healthy meals; Youngest Champion Solange Signoret, a youth ambassador for Boo2Bullying CFC 2022.

Betty Bash is being honored today during the Riverside County Children & Families Commission meeting. Ms. Bash started Town and Country Day School in Norco in 1961 and even back then focused on quality care.

Mr. Pravica reviewed the timeline for the 2024 Champion for Children selection cycle that starts in January 2024. Chair Margiotta noted it is the Advisory Committee's job to get the word out.

4. Quality Early Learning Highlights – Carol Abella, Regional Manager

Due to time constraints, Chair Margiotta made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Advisory Member Mr. Patel second the motion. **Absent:** Kari Middleton-Hendrix. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**F. Future Agenda Items:**

1. First 5 Riverside County Family Resource Centers Presentation
2. First 5 Riverside County Budget Updates
3. First 5 Riverside County Policy Updates
4. First 5 Riverside County 2023 Communications Plan

**Adjournment:** Adjournment at 12:00 pm to the next Regular Meeting of the Advisory Committee of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on January 24, 2024 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at:  
Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office  
585 Technology Court - Conference Room A  
Riverside, CA 92507

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Lynn M. Stephens, Executive Assistant IV.

**E. Presentations/Information – Malinda Margiotta, Chair**

E.1. Quality Early Learning Presentation - Carol Abella, Regional Manager

# Quality Early Learning



**First 5 Riverside County Advisory Committee  
January 24, 2024**

# Goal Statement:

Children, birth through age 5, benefit from quality early education, early intervention, family engagement, and support that prepares all children to reach their optimal potential in school and life.

## Major Initiatives:

- Quality Start Riverside County
- Child Care Scholarships
- Early Literacy
- Family Engagement
- ECE Workforce and Infrastructure (ARPA \$)





# QUALITY START



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

Excellence in Early Learning

10

[www.QualityStartRC.org](http://www.QualityStartRC.org)



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools



# Quality Improvement System

A framework for early learning settings that provides tools and resources to access and improve the quality of early learning by utilizing:

- Consistent quality standards
- A process for supporting quality improvement
- Provision of incentives and supports
- Providing information to parents and the public about program quality

The framework focuses on three core elements:

- Child Development and School-Readiness
- Teachers and Teaching
- Program and Environment



## 534 Total QSRC Sites



16,189

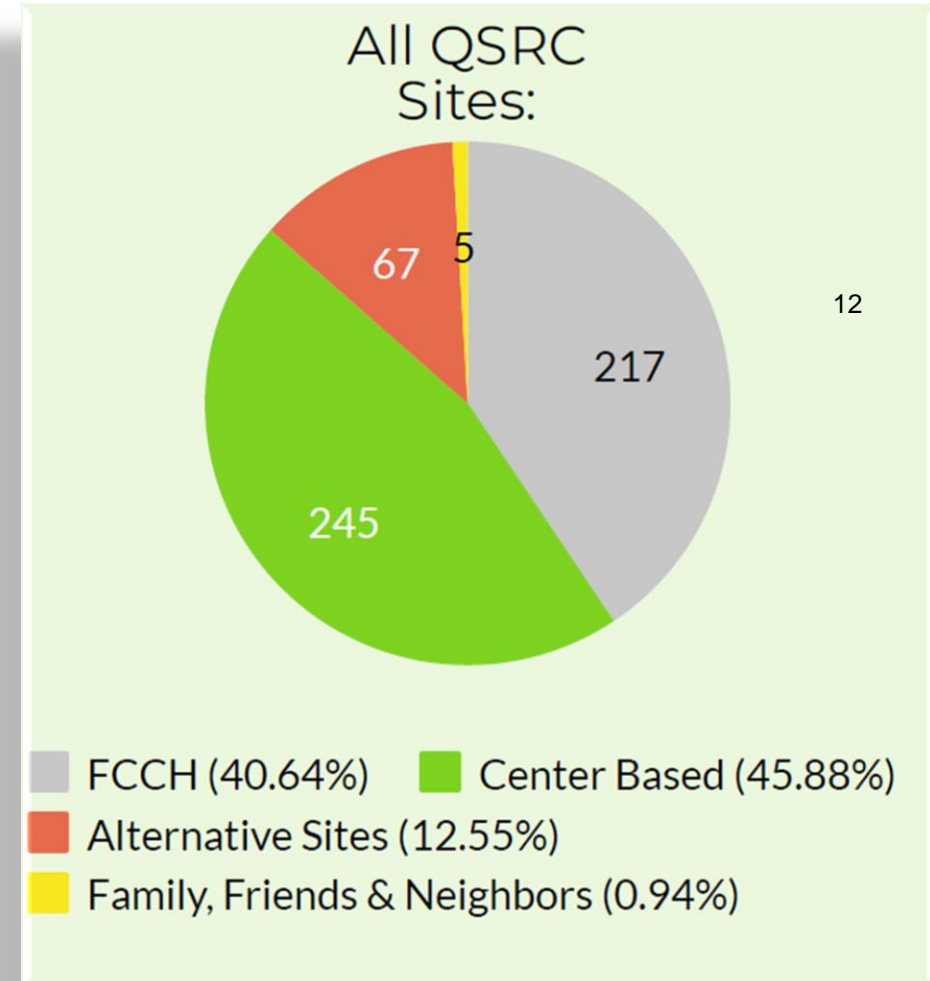
Total children 0-5 years old

1,761 Licensed Sites Countywide \*\*



180,490\*

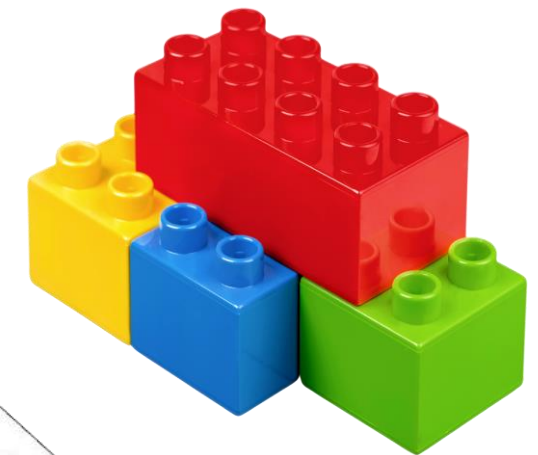
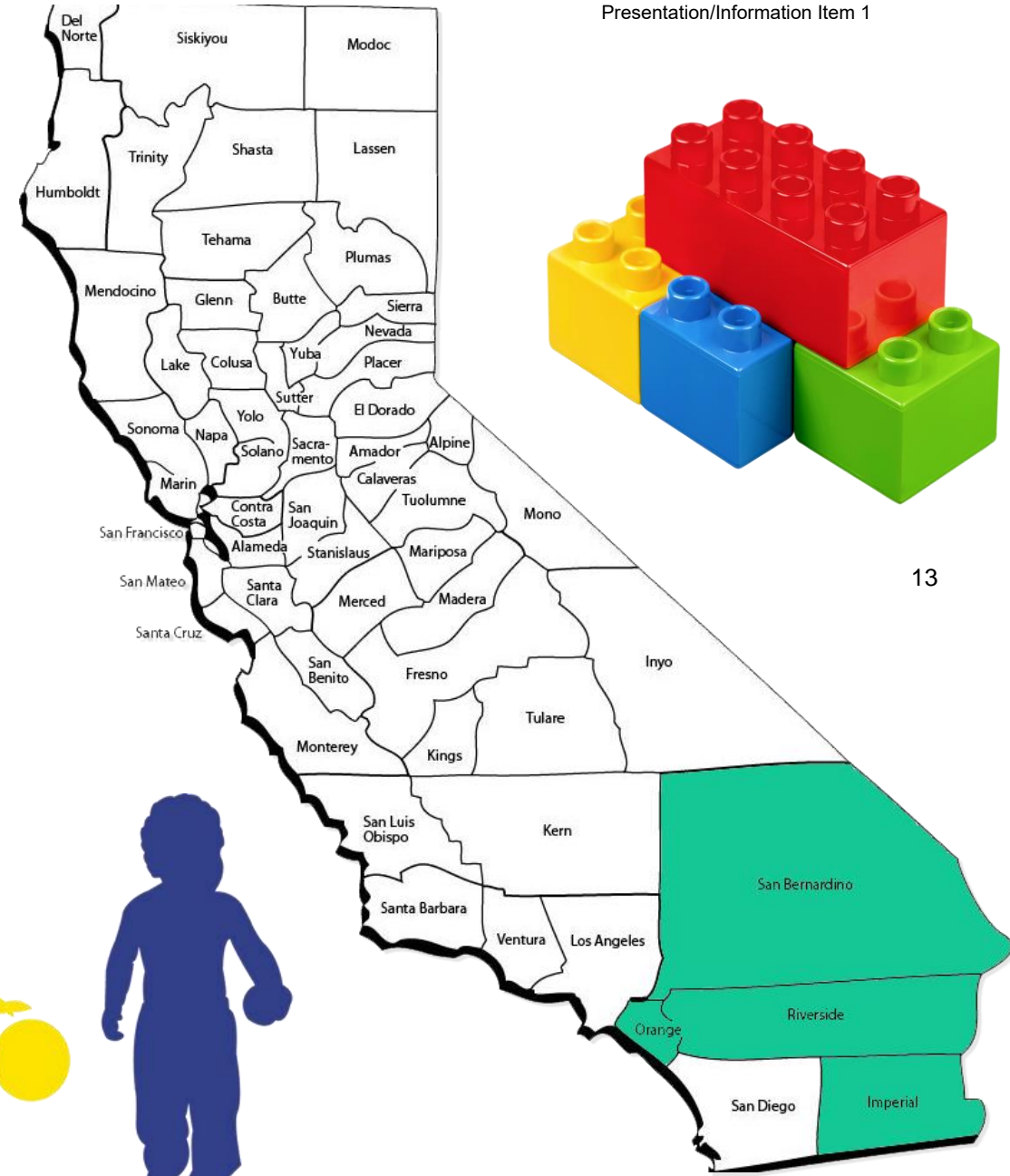
Total children 0-5 years old



# Region 9 Hub

- **IMPACT Legacy**
- **Region 9 Fiscal Lead**
- **Imperial, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino**
- **Building Regional Coordination and Technical Assistance**

**\$7.6M - FY 23-25**



# Quality Start Provider Feedback

- Professional Development on foundational elements of quality such as: Effective Interactions, Quality Environments, Socio-emotional, Assessments and Observation
- Providers report needing:

**Support  
with staff  
retention**

**Parent  
engagement /  
communication**

**Classroom  
Environment**

**Adult-child  
interactions**

**Content-specific  
(reading, art, socio-  
emotional, and math)**

# Family Resource Center Network

## District 1 - Mead Valley/Perris First 5 and FRC Network Partners

- Blindness Support, Inc



## District 2 – Jurupa Community Health Center and FRC Network Partners

- Jurupa Unified School District
- Blindness Support, Inc.
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians



## District 4 - Desert Hot Springs - Mecca and FRC Network Partners

- JFK Memorial Foundation
- Greater Hope Foundation for Children
- Family Services Association



## District 3 FRC Network Partners

- CA Family Life Center - Hemet
- Family Services Association – Hope Collaborative
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians- San Jacinto, Anza, Mt. Center
- A Greater Hope Foundation for Children
- Temecula WIC Partnership (Coming Soon)



## District 5 FRC Network Partners

- CA Family Life Center
- Family Services Association –Moreno Valley
- A Greater Hope Foundation for Children
- RUHS-HeRCARe Clinic (Coming Soon)



## Developmental Screenings

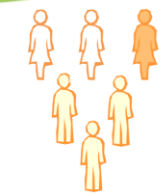
**53 Family Child Care  
and  
10 Child Care Centers**

**Access to screening  
1,000+ children**



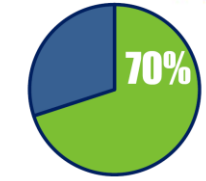
### ASQ-3 by the Numbers

Agenda Item 1  
Presentation/Information Item 1



**1 IN EVERY 6 CHILDREN**  
are affected by:

- Developmental delays
- Learning disorders
- Behavioral & social-emotional problems



70% of disabilities or delays are missed in children.

### Who uses ASQ

16

**#1 WITH  
PEDIATRICIANS**

Widely used in:

- Head Start
- Child Care
- Public Preschool
- Home Visiting Programs



# Riverside County Hybrid Alternative Payments (RHAP) - Child Care Scholarships and Incentives



# RHAP Subsidized Child Care Scholarships

## Access for 150 (FTE) Low Income Families with Priority:

- Infants and toddlers (ages 0-3)
- Direct enrollment for Quality Start Riverside County participating providers and newly constructed or renovated facilities funded by First 5 Riverside County
- Special populations - defined as, but not limited to:
  - families in crisis, migrant families, children with special needs, grandparents raising grandchildren, and continuity of care for families impacted by displacement due to program reduction.

*F5 RHAP reimbursement will align with the State AP rates allowing additional low-income children to access quality early learning education that meets the needs of the families.*

## Quality Incentives:

Incentive Structure: Flat Rate per full time week* First Year: 0-4 / Second Year: 0-3	
Center-Based	Family Child Care
\$40	\$25

\*The Flat rate is the same regardless of the child's age and based on a F/T scholarship.  
Rates are half the amount for P/T scholarship.

# Early Literacy and Parent and Community Engagement

**For Families with Children Ages 0-5**

## RAISING A READER

Free reading program with book bags, snacks, activities, and resources.

Contact your nearest Family Resource Center for information and enrollment.



## PARENT CAFE



GREAT EXPERIENCES COME WITH A GOOD CUP OF COFFEE!  
COME MEET NEW FRIENDS

**Mead Valley Family Resource Center**  
21091 Rider Street, Suite 216  
Perris, CA 92570



Meetings on Tuesdays 9:00 am-10:30 am | Join as many as you'd like  
Sept. 12 | Sept. 26 | Oct. 10 | Oct 24 | Nov. 7 | and Nov. 14

To register: Scan the QR code or call (951) 210-1550

- LEARN ABOUT PROTECTIVE FACTORS
- PEER TO PEER LEARNING
- DEEP SELF-REFLECTION
- PARENTS OF ALL AGES WELCOME

FREE COFFEE, DONUTS AND PAN DULCE





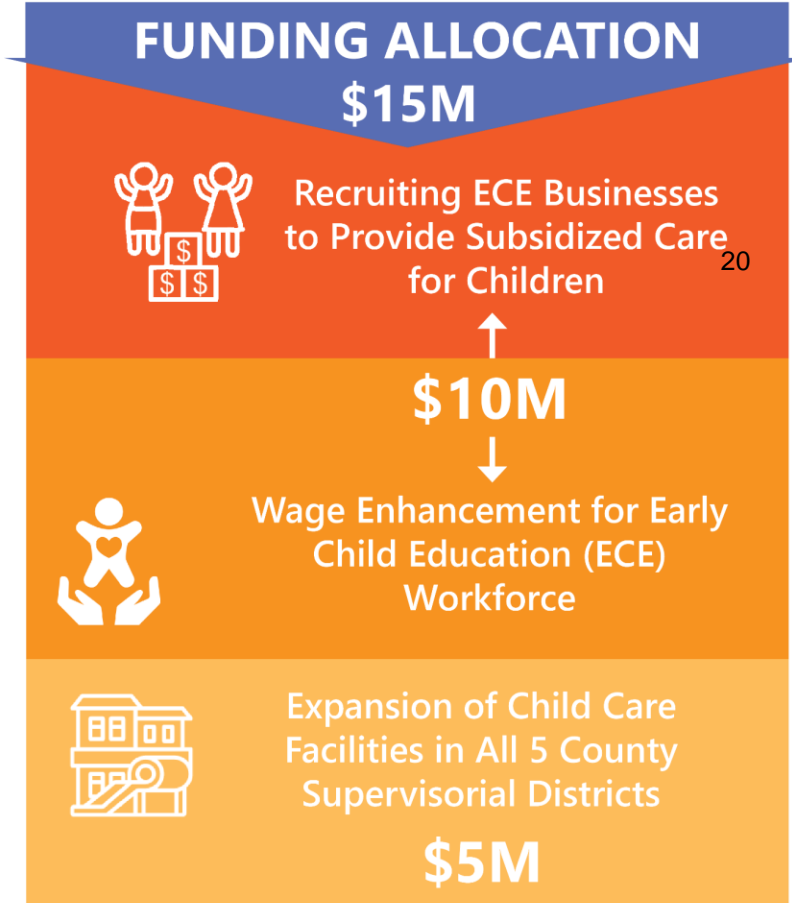
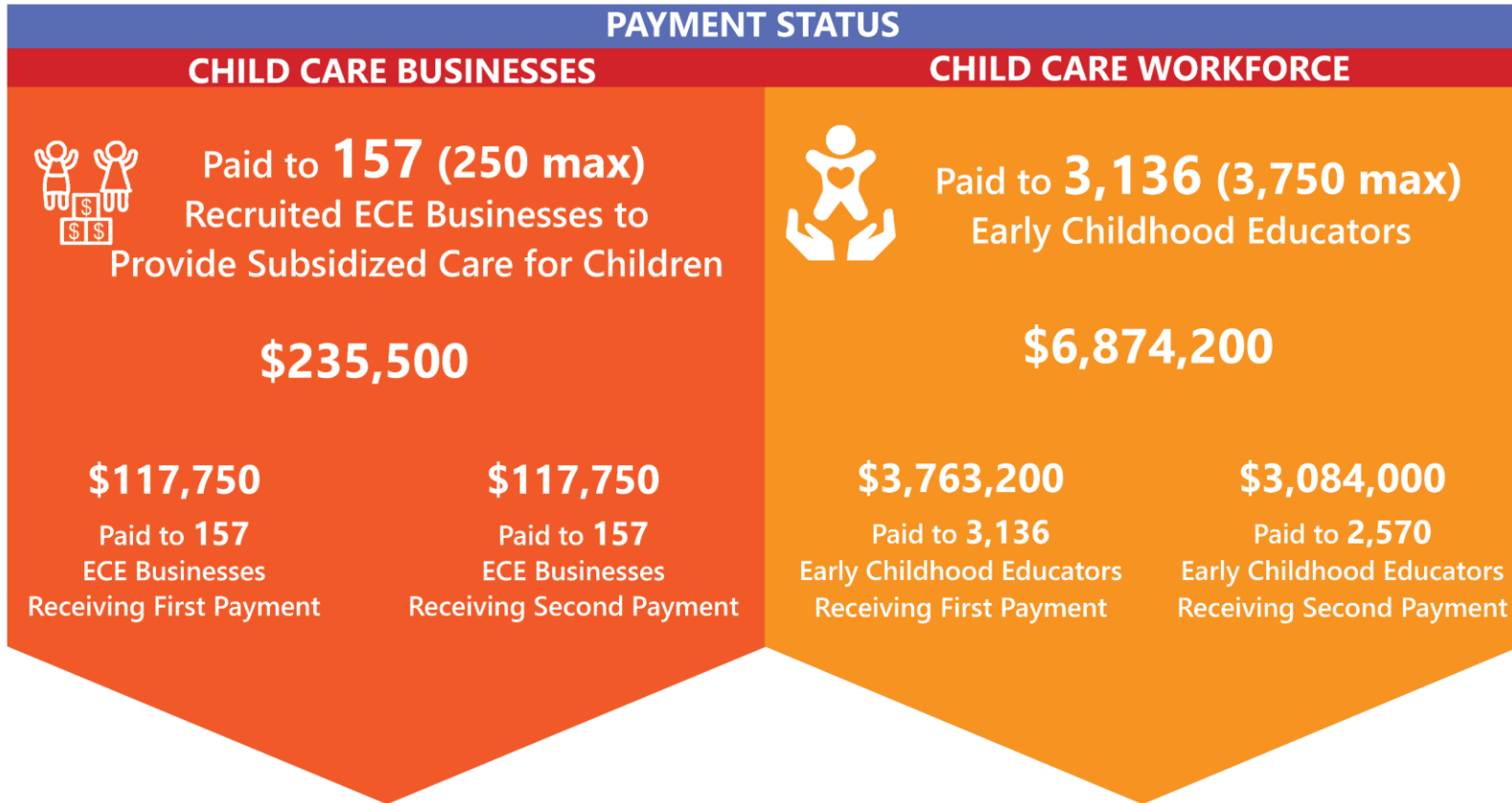
**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)  
\$15M CHILD CARE ALLOCATION**

Administered By:



Agenda Item E  
Presentation/Information Item 1  
**RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**  
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

**LICENSED CAPACITY FOR APPROXIMATELY  
30,000 CHILDREN AND OVER 3,100 EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATORS AT MORE THAN 1,000 SITES**



# Infrastructure-Facilities Update

## Commission Actions

### First 5 Riverside County: Early Care & Education Facilities Investments

- December 11, 2019 (AI 19-29) - \$1.5M Infrastructure
- October 28, 2020 (AI 20-36) - \$3.8M Additional Infrastructure

PARTNER AGENCY	DISTRICT	PROJECT TOTAL	NOTES
Growing Place	2	134,000	Completed. Projection period ended 6/30/22.
Town & County	2	86,404	Completed. Projection period ended 12/31/21.
ABC Center	3	245,906	Completed. Projection period ended 6/30/22.
ABC Village	3	234,750	Completed. Projection period ended 6/30/22.
Bermuda Dunes	4	289,437	Completed. Projection period ended 6/30/22.
First School	4	211,582	Completed. Projection period ended 12/31/21.
<b>PROP 10 FUNDING</b>		<b>1,202,079</b>	

# Commission Actions

## First 5 Riverside County: Early Care & Education Facilities Investments

- December 11, 2019 (AI 19-29) - \$1.5M Infrastructure
- October 28, 2020 (AI 20-36) - \$3.8M Additional Infrastructure

PARTNER AGENCY	DISTRICT	PROJECT TOTAL	NOTES
Family Services Assoc.	1	638,500	Site visit 8/16. Near completion. Pending Fire marshal & licensing clearance.
Temple Beth El	1	172,038	Infant Toddler room conversion. Virtual Site Update 6/20/23. Pending permits and licensing.
VIP Tots	3	382,678	Outdoor project. Pending project re-inspection and completion.
Bermuda Dunes	4	585,600	Site visit 8/17. Pending outdoor playground completion while waiting for fire marshal final clearance.
Escuela De La Raza	4	2,181,824	Site visit 8/17. Interior completed. Finishing playground and splash pad.
Jan Peterson	5	1,105,354	Finalized architect plans. Plans pending City approval for site grading and construction commencement.
<b>PROP 10 FUNDING</b>		<b>5,065,994</b>	

## Commission Actions

### First 5 Riverside County: Early Care & Education Facilities Investments

- September 27, 2021 (AI 21-35) Acceptance \$15M ARPA (\$5M allocated to ECE facilities)
- May 11, 2022 (AI 22-18) - \$1M ARPA plus \$1M Prop 10 \$600K Developmental Impact Fees to D1 – Lakeland Village
- July 17, 2023 (AI 23-42) - \$2M ARPA plus \$2M Prop 10 – French Valley

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PARTNER AGENCY	DISTRICT	PROJECT TOTAL	NOTES
Lakeland Village Facility	1/2	6,607,628	County-owned multi-service facility. Architect Design firm selected BOS 8/29/23. Construction Bid process estimated in Mar/Apr.
French Valley Library	3	4,000,000	County-owned multi-service facility. Commission approval 7/17/23. BOS approved.
Desert Rose	4	1,000,000	F5RC managed ARPA. District allocation. Pending HWS Form 11, next steps. Potential operator identified
Pending Project	5	2,000,000	RFP released Nov 2023
<b>Prop 10/ARPA/DIF Funds</b>		<b>13,607,628</b>	



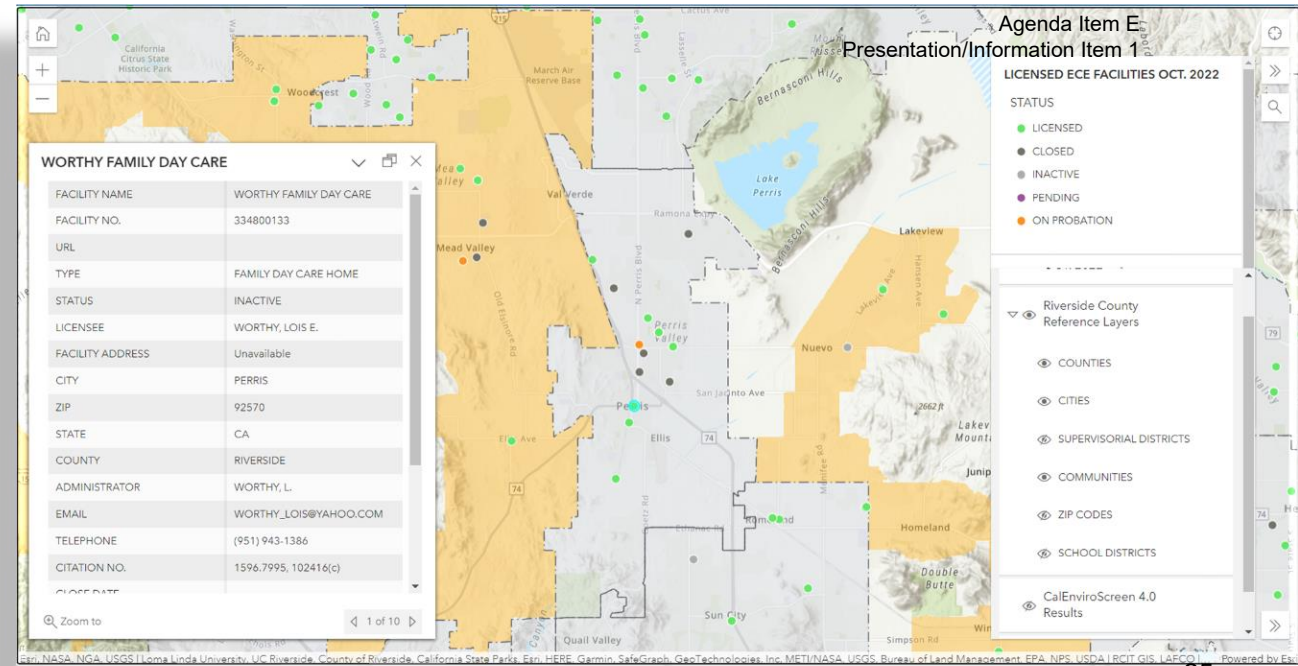
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**BUILD  
UP CA**   
*Riverside  
County*

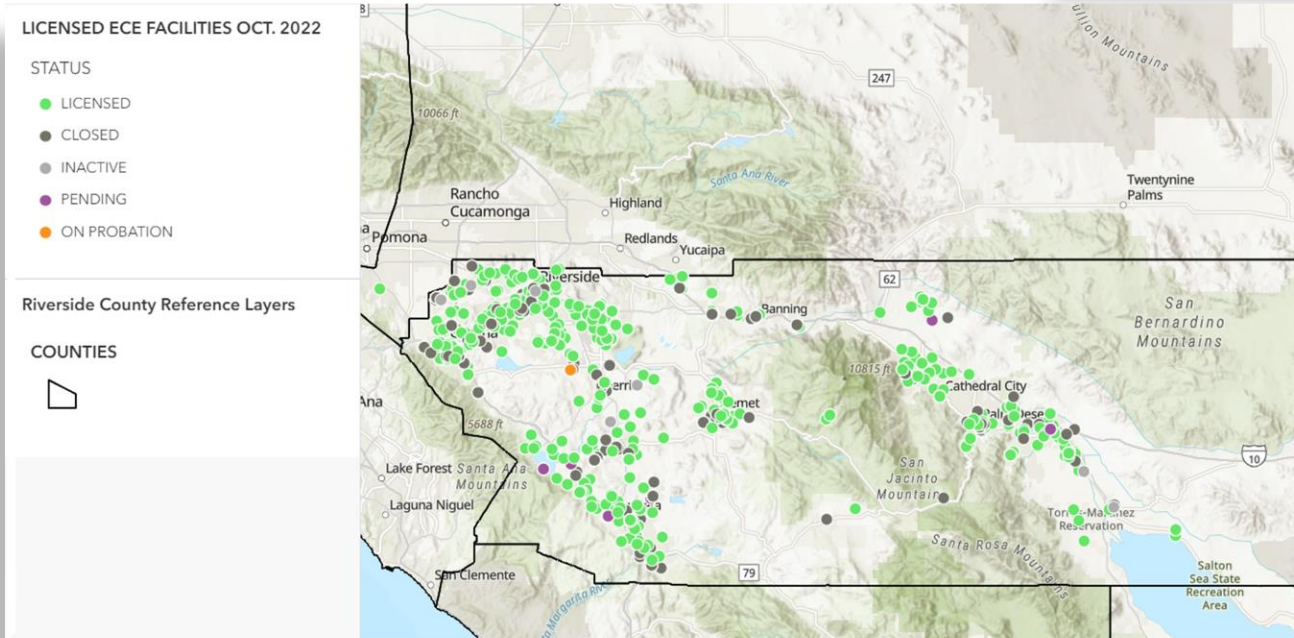


# ECE Riverside County child care infrastructure pipeline map

- **Purpose:** To map existing ECE supply and pipeline projects for policy, funding, and partnership purposes.



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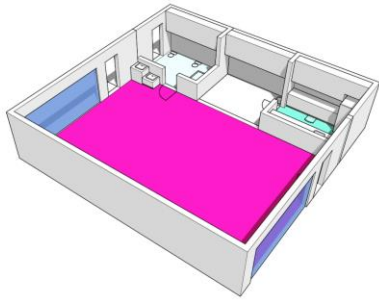


- Map will be hosted under Build Up Riverside County
- Layers included in the map

- DPSS Licensing Center/Large FCCH data
- Lift to Rise (LTR) housing pipeline data (district 4)
- RCOE small FCCH data
- Incorporate new projects with increasing ECE slots to the pipeline map

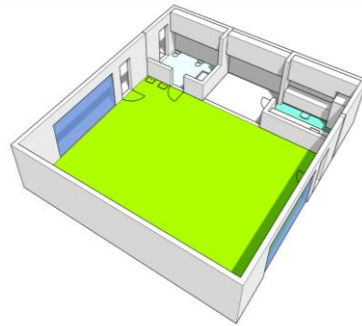
# Riverside County ECE Center Typologies

**Purpose:** To facilitate appropriate design of and planning for ECE facilities located within housing developments.



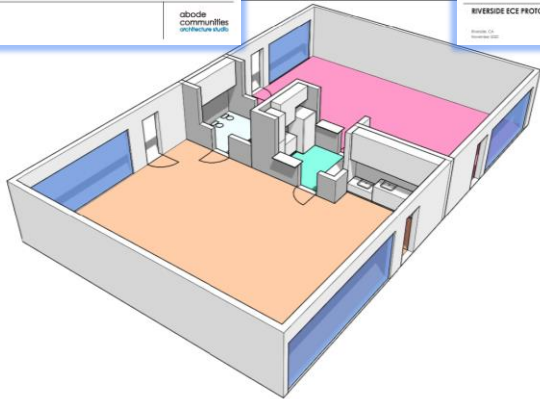
RIVERSIDE ECE PROTOTYPES  
TWO'S CLASSROOM

abode  
communities  
architecture studio



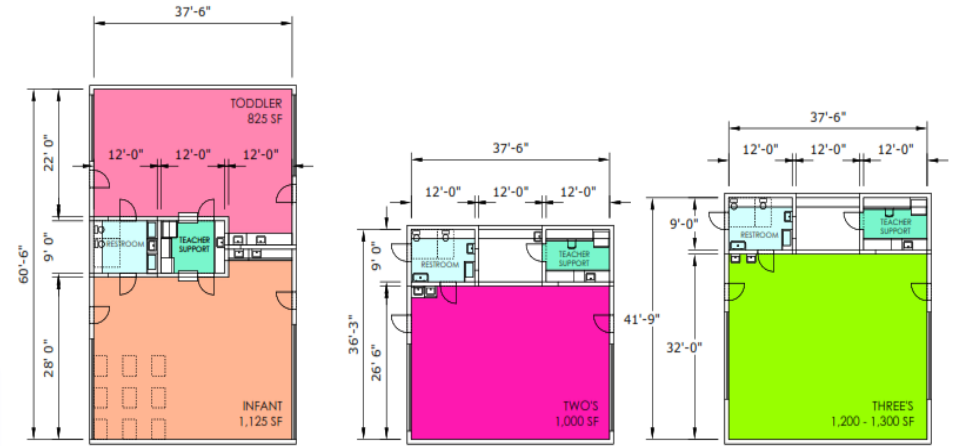
RIVERSIDE ECE PROTOTYPES  
THREE'S CLASSROOM

abode  
communities  
architecture studio



RIVERSIDE ECE PROTOTYPES  
IT POD

abode  
communities  
architecture studio



SMALL ECE: 1 IT POD  
18 CHILDREN

LARGE ECE: 2 IT PODS  
36 CHILDREN

SMALL ECE: 2 TWO'S CLASSROOMS  
24 CHILDREN

LARGE ECE: 2 TWO'S CLASSROOMS  
24 CHILDREN

SMALL ECE: 1 THREE'S CLASSROOMS  
20 TO 24 CHILDREN

LARGE ECE: 2 THREE'S CLASSROOMS  
40 TO 48 CHILDREN

26





# Questions

E.2.Champion for Children Nomination Overview - Sean Pravica



# CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD 2024 Nomination Process

## VISION

First 5 Riverside County's Champion for Children Award was created to honor and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of First 5 Riverside County, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Champion for Children Award recipient(s) will be presented a plaque and certificate by the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and will be recognized on the First 5 Riverside County website and social media.

## GUIDELINES

- A person can only receive the award once within a ten-year period.
  - More than one person within the same organization may be eligible for the award.
- Submission window will be open one time per year.
  - Applications will be accepted through **February 21, 2024**. Applications must be received prior to the deadline. Any applications received after the deadline can be resubmitted in the next application window.
  - Nominees will be contacted to provide references and fill out questionnaire within two (2) weeks.
  - Applications will be reviewed within 30 days after the deadline to submit applications.
  - A recommendation will be made to the Commission at its next regular meeting.
  - Award recipient will be notified within two (2) weeks and presented with the award at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

## RECIPIENT CRITERION

- Person or persons, organization/service provider, or campaign.
- Supports and/or advocates for young children and families in Riverside County.
- Has created dynamic change or longevity within Riverside County.
- Achievements are in alignment with First 5 Riverside County strategic goals ([click here to read the F5RC Strategic Plan](#)):
  1. Quality Early Learning
  2. Comprehensive Health and Development
  3. Resilient Families
- Riverside County resident (has lived and/or worked in the county for a minimum of two years).
- Positive role model.

## Nomination Form (to be completed by person making nomination):

- Nominee's name (and contact information).
  - Job title and/or volunteer capacity for which you feel the nominee should be honored.
  - I nominate this person as a Champion for Children because...
    - Describe the nominee's commitment to children and families in Riverside County. Please share specific examples of how this involvement has changed the life of a child, children, or families. Specify the nominee's efforts toward Quality Early Learning, Comprehensive Health and Development and/or Resilient Families (pages 19-40 of Strategic Plan, as linked in Criterion section).
- Name and contact information of person submitting nomination.
  - How long have you known the nominee?
  - Please indicate if you would be willing to participate in a video or phone interview on behalf of your nominee.

## Additional questions about nominee:

1. Number of years impacting children's lives.
2. List organizations and years of involvement.
3. List key awards/accomplishments.
4. What key contributions has the nominee made to the community of children and families in Riverside County? Please be specific and include projects, events, donations, volunteer work, leadership, advocacy, and any other services made.
5. What are the results or influences of your nominee's work? Please include quantitative information (e.g. how many volunteer hours, how many organizations your nominee has volunteered with, how many individuals benefited from your nominee's efforts, etc.); and qualitative results (e.g. press releases, news stories, awards, and/or other recognition). **Please limit your response to 250 words.** Supporting documentation/evidence may be attached.
6. Please list the names and email addresses of three individuals we can contact to complete a reference questionnaire (see questions below).
7. Please submit form by **February 21, 2024** to Sean Pravica, First 5 Riverside County Senior Public Information Specialist, [First5@rivco.org](mailto:First5@rivco.org).

## Questions for additional references:

1. Name and affiliation.
2. How long have you known this person and in what capacity?
3. Briefly describe the projects or events that you have worked on with this applicant with regard to children and families.
4. Briefly describe how this person has positively impacted the lives of children and families in Riverside County (limit to 125 words).
5. You may contact me for more information (yes or no).
6. Please submit form by **February 21, 2024** to First 5 Riverside Advisory Committee Chair via First 5 Commission Coordinator.

**MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**585 Technology Court  
Riverside, CA 92507**

30

**First5@rivco.org**



# CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD 2024 Nomination Form

Name and title of person submitting nomination:

Work address:

Home address:

Phone:

Cell phone:

Email:

## VISION

First 5 Riverside County's Champion for Children Award was created to honor and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of First 5 Riverside County, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

Champion for Children Award recipient(s) will be presented a plaque and certificate by the Riverside County Children and Families Commission and will be recognized on the First 5 Riverside County website and social media.

## GUIDELINES

- A person can only receive the award once within a ten-year period.
  - More than one person within the same organization may be eligible for the award.
- Submission window will be open one time per year.
  - Applications will be accepted through **February 21, 2024**. Applications must be received prior to the deadline. Any applications received after the deadline can be resubmitted in the next application window.
  - Nominators will be contacted to provide references and fill out questionnaire within two (2) weeks.
  - Applications will be reviewed within 30 days after the deadline to submit applications.
  - A recommendation will be made to the Commission at its next regular meeting.
  - Award recipient will be notified within two (2) weeks and presented with the award at the next scheduled Commission meeting.

## RECIPIENT CRITERION

- Person or persons, organization/service provider, or campaign.
- Supports and/or advocates for young children and families in Riverside County.
- Has created dynamic change or longevity within Riverside County.
- Achievements are in alignment with First 5 Riverside strategic goals ([click here to read the F5RC Strategic Plan](#)):
  1. Quality Early Learning
  2. Comprehensive Health and Development
  3. Resilient Families
- Riverside County resident (has lived and/or worked in the county for a minimum of two years).
- Positive role model.

### **I nominate this person as a Champion for Children because...**

**[Please use additional paper if needed]**

Describe your nominee's commitment to children and families in Riverside County. Please include specific examples of how this involvement has changed the life of a child, children, or families. Specify the nominee's efforts toward Quality Early Learning, Comprehensive Health and Development and/or Resilient Families. **Please limit your response to 250 words.** Supporting documentation and/or evidence may be attached.

➤ Please list three words that best describe your nominee:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **NOMINEE PROFILE (to be completed by person who is making the nomination)**

Name:

Job/Volunteer:

Title:

Website:

List of organizations and  
years of involvement:

### **List key awards/accomplishments [Please use additional paper if needed]:**

What key contributions has the nominee provided to the community of children and families in Riverside County that address the goals in First 5 Riverside County's Strategic Plan? Please be specific and include projects, events, donations, volunteer work, leadership, advocacy, and any other service your nominee provides to the community. **Please limit your response to 250 words.** Supporting documentation and/or evidence may be attached.

What are the results or influences of your nominee's activities as related to serving children ages 0-5? Please include quantitative information (e.g., how many hours spent volunteering, how many organizations the nominee has volunteered with (current/previous), how many individuals benefited from the nominee's efforts, etc.); and qualitative results (e.g., press releases, news stories, awards, and/or other recognitions). **Please limit your response to 250 words.** Supporting documentation and/or evidence may be attached.

Please list the names and email addresses of three individuals we can contact to complete a reference questionnaire for your nominee:

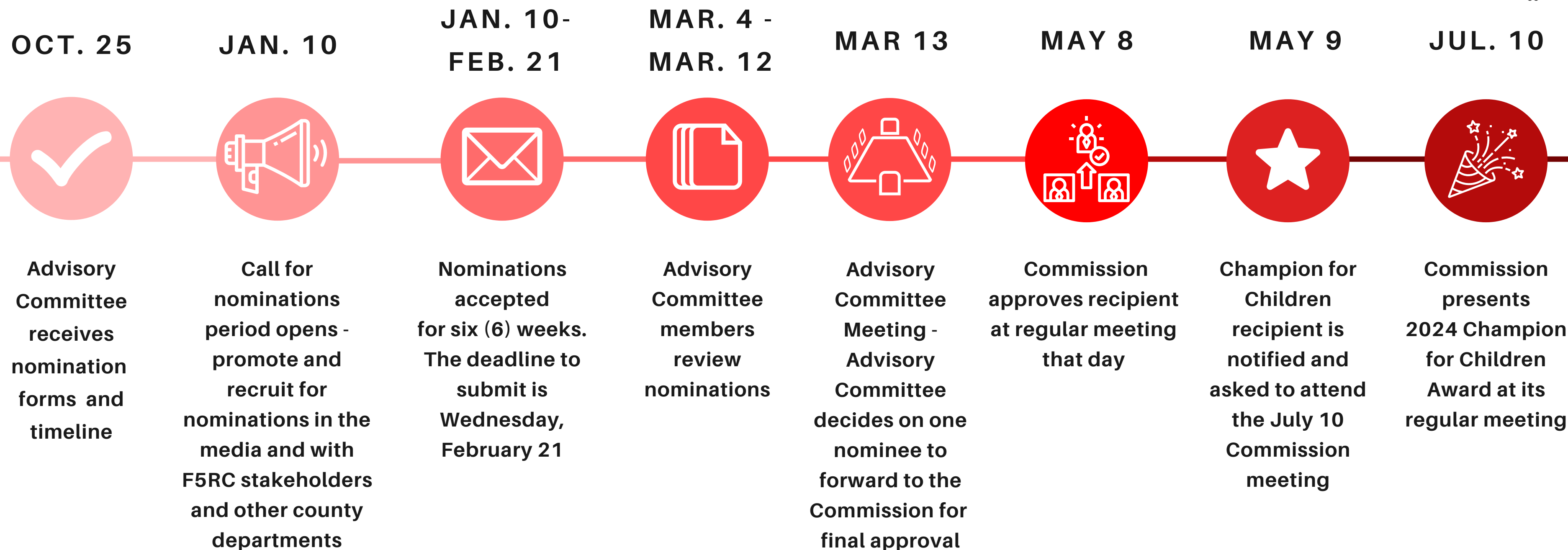
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please submit form by **February 21, 2024** to Sean Pravica, First 5 Riverside County Senior Public Information Specialist, [First5@rivco.org](mailto:First5@rivco.org).

**MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED FORM TO FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

**585 Technology Court  
Riverside, CA 92507**

# 2024 CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN TIMELINE





# CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN SELECTION PROCESS 100 POINT RUBRIC AND SCORESHEET NAME OF NOMINEE

## Component 1: Current professional roles via employment and/or volunteer experience (10 points)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>4 points</b>	<b>7 points</b>	<b>10 points</b>
--Supervisor in a field serving families with children ages 0-5.	-- Teacher in early childhood serving children ages 0-5.	-- Volunteer in a capacity and/or field that serves families with children ages 0-5.

### Component 1: SCORE

## Component 2: Volunteer work at Community Events (10 points)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>4 points</b>	<b>7 points</b>	<b>10 points</b>
--Provides little or no evidence of volunteering at community events focusing on families with children ages 0-5.	--Provides evidence of volunteering at community events focusing on families with children ages 0-5 but does not include either the events or years the events took place.	--Includes clear and detailed list of volunteer activities related to families with children ages 0-5 and the year(s) the events took place.

### Component 2: SCORE

## Component 3: Length of employment working with families of children ages 0-5 that exemplifies one or more of First 5 Riverside County's goal areas: (10 points)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>5 points</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>20 points</b>
--1 to 5 years' experience working with families of children ages 0-5 that exemplifies one or more of First 5 Riverside County's goal areas.	--6 to 10 years' experience working with families of children ages 0-5 that exemplifies one or more of First 5 Riverside County's goal areas	-- 11 or more years of experience working with families of children ages 0-5 in a position that exemplifies one or more of First 5 Riverside County's goal areas.

### Component 3: SCORE

## Component 4: Key awards and accomplishments (10 points)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
<b>5 points</b>	<b>10 points</b>	<b>20 points</b>
--Provides little or no evidence of goals or aspirations serving children ages 0-5.	--Provides evidence of goals or aspirations serving children ages 0-5.	--Includes clear and detailed list of goals or aspirations serving children ages 0-5.

### Component 4: SCORE

**Component 5: Results or influences of nominee’s activities (20 points)**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
5 points	10 points	20 points
<p>--Unclear or inconclusive evidence of nominee’s results or influences.</p> <p>--Provides little or no evidence of establishing, supporting and developing the subject.</p> <p>--Provides little or no evidence of logical sequencing.</p> <p>--Answer contains misspellings, grammatical errors and punctuation inconsistencies.</p>	<p>--Identifies evidence of nominee’s activities or influences clearly.</p> <p>--Provides general support of establishing, supporting and developing the subject.</p> <p>--Includes logical sequencing.</p> <p>--Answer contains few misspellings, grammatical errors and punctuation inconsistencies.</p>	<p>--Clear evidence of nominee’s activities or influences.</p> <p>--Provides clear evidence of establishing, supporting and developing the subject.</p> <p>--Provides substantial evidence of logical sequencing.</p> <p>--Answer contains little or no misspellings, grammatical errors or punctuation inconsistencies.</p>

**Component 5: SCORE**

**Component 6: Level of skills and understanding in working/volunteering in a field serving children ages 0-5 that exemplifies one or more goal areas of First 5 Riverside County (20 points)**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
4 points	10 points	20 points
<p>--Provides few positive observations about the nominee’s skill level or ability to perform well in fields serving children ages 0-5.</p> <p>--Provides few positive observations about the nominee’s understanding of the children ages 0-5.</p> <p>--Fails to present an unbiased assessment of the nominee’s potential as it relates to this award.</p>	<p>--Provides positive observations about the nominee’s skill level or ability to perform well in field serving children ages 0-5 but does not identify specific examples of accomplishments.</p> <p>--Provides some positive observations about the nominee’s understanding of children ages 0-5, but specific examples of accomplishments are not directly related to the goal areas of First 5 Riverside County.</p> <p>--Presents an unbiased assessment of nominee’s ability and potential but lacks enthusiasm as it relates to this award.</p>	<p>--Clearly indicates positive and enthusiastic observations regarding the nominee’s skill level or ability to perform well in a field serving children ages 0-5.</p> <p>--Clearly indicates positive and enthusiastic observations regarding the nominee’s skill level and understanding of children ages 0-5 and provides examples related to those observations.</p> <p>--Presents an unbiased and convincing assessment of the nominee’s ability and potential as it relates to this award.</p>

**Component 6: SCORE**

# Champion for Children

First 5 Riverside County's Champion for Children Award was created to honor, sponsor, and bring awareness to people and organizations whose leadership and advocacy embody the vision of First 5 Riverside County, where all children in Riverside County are healthy and thrive in supportive, nurturing, and loving environments and enter school ready to learn and embrace lifelong learning.

## Award Winners



### 2020 - Carmela Garnica

Carmela is the Program Director at Escuela de la Raza Unida (ERU), a non-profit organization in Blythe that is dedicated to serving the needs of low-income families with young children in the Palo Verde Valley.



### 2021 - Desiray Taylor

Desiray was selected as Champion for Children for her work as the director of a child care center where she organized many community events and introduced the center's first lunch program to ensure all children had food to eat.



### 2022 - Solange Signoret

Solange is the youngest-awarded Champion for Children at 17 years old, and was recognized for her work as Youth Ambassador for the Palm Springs-based nonprofit Boo2Bullying that promotes inclusivity, tolerance, and kindness through anti-bullying campaigns.



### 2023 - Betty Bash

Betty is the Executive Director of Town & Country Day school in Norco that provides preschool and daycare since 1961 focusing on creativity, nature, friends, academics, fresh air and fun.



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 10, 2024

### CONTACT:

Sean Pravica  
Senior Public Information Specialist  
First 5 Riverside County  
951-955-0568 (Desk)  
951-203-3097 (Cell)  
[spravica@rivco.org](mailto:spravica@rivco.org)

## FIRST 5 RIVERSIDE COUNTY ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 CHAMPION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Every child needs a champion, and each year First 5 Riverside County (F5RC) recognizes the difference-makers in our children's lives. The annual F5RC Champion for Children Award is now open for nominations for individuals and organizations dedicated to the crucial and rewarding work supporting young children and their families. The winner will be recognized broadly and by the F5RC Commission. To celebrate their award, the selected Champion will be granted a \$1,000 sponsorship in support of a community event of their choice. Nominations are due by **Wednesday, February 21**.

Past Champions have exemplified the F5RC vision in ensuring young children have the best start in life. They include:

- **Carmela Garnica** – Director, Escuela De La Raza Unida, Blythe, CA. Every day Carmela changes the lives of children by providing fun, safe, and nurturing educational environments in the Palo Verde Valley.
- **Desiray Taylor** – formerly a Child Care Director in Perris, Desiray organized community events and introduced the center's first lunch program to ensure all children had healthy food to eat.
- **Solange Signoret** – Advocate, First 5's youngest Champion and now in her first year in college, Solange's anti-bullying advocacy in high school extended throughout Riverside County, and nationally with speaking engagements in Washington D.C.
- **Betty Bash** – Founder and Director, Town and Country Day School. Betty is an early education pioneer who founded Town & Country in Norco in 1961. Her leadership emphasized quality education for children before California Head Start brought greater recognition to this approach.

The next Champion for Children will be approved by the F5RC Commission in May and formally recognized in July. Nominees must be a resident of Riverside County and have lived/worked within the county for at least two years. The recipient selected will have achievements that align with F5RC strategic goals, including quality early learning, comprehensive health and development, and resilient families.

Visit [www.First5Riverside.org](http://www.First5Riverside.org) for the complete nomination process and form. For additional information, please contact F5RC Public Information Specialist Sean Pravica at (951) 203-3097.

# # #

*First 5 Riverside County, the Riverside County Children & Families Commission, is funded by Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues. First 5 Riverside County supports early childhood development through educational outreach, partnerships and funding for services that benefit children, from prenatal through age 5, their families, and communities. For more information about First 5 Riverside County programs and other funded services, call 800-266-3880 or visit [www.First5Riverside.org](http://www.First5Riverside.org).*

**F. Future Agenda Items:**

F.1. Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC) Presentation

F.2. First 5 Riverside County Policy Updates

F.3. First 5 Riverside County 2024 Communications Plan Updates

**G. Adjournment:** Adjournment to the next Regular Meeting of Advisory Committee of First 5 Riverside County Children and Families Commission to be held on March 13, 2024

beginning at 11:00 a.m. at:

Riverside County Children and Families Commission Office

585 Technology Court - Conference Room A

Riverside, CA 92507

**Conflict of Interest:** Any person, or group of persons present at this meeting, who wish (es) to speak on a matter may be required to state for the record any contributions, in excess of \$250.00 made in the past (12) twelve months, made to any Commission member, the Commission member receiving the contribution, and the matter of consideration with which they are involved.

**Agenda Posting:** Agendas will be posted at the Clerk of the Board of Riverside County and the Commission Business Office.

All public record documents for matters on the open session of the Agenda are available for inspection at the meeting listed in this Agenda, and at the following location beginning three (3) days prior to the meeting date:

**Riverside County Children and Families Commission  
585 Technology Court  
Riverside, CA 92507**

If a public record document that relates to a matter on the open session of the Agenda is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date, the public record document shall be available for inspection, at the same time it is distributed, at the address listed above. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.